

# Kissinger Heading To Paris

No Time Limit  
Set by U.S.  
On Conference

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Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger is to leave for Paris Sunday to reopen with North Vietnam on Monday a climactic round of negotiations on halting the war.

In announcing the long-heralded talks between Kissinger and North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho, the White House declined to put any explicit time limit on the talks or to describe them as "final" negotiations.

The prospects for agreement are good, administration sources said, but the subjects remaining to be clarified, amended or added to the existing draft peace accord touch central issues in the war.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said, "We expect the meeting to last several days, perhaps more." Ziegler would expect further consultations with the South Vietnamese." This can mean several more weeks of discussion before an agreement is completed.

When asked if the Paris meeting would be the "final" round of Kissinger-Tho talks, Ziegler obliquely replied, "If the other side enters into the sessions in the same spirit of goodwill that has characterized the sessions since Oct. 8, we would expect a successful outcome."

Le Duc Tho, on his arrival in Paris yesterday from Moscow, similarly avoided any time limit on the new negotiations. He also dispensed with any equivocation about whether he was coming to Paris for "talks," "negotiations," or for simply "signing" the peace accord originally projected for completion on Oct. 31.

The silver-haired Tho, wearing a dark overcoat over his black Mao jacket and suit, told newsmen in relatively moderate mood: "At the suggestion of the United States, I am coming to Paris to hold negotiations once again with the U.S. side in order to rapidly settle the conclusion of the agreement."

From Paris, Jonathan C. Randal of The Washington Post Foreign Service reported that Tho read part of a prepared statement. The statement reiterated Hanoi's position that, "If the United States protracts the negotiations, delays the conclusion of the agreement, and continues the war, the Vietnamese people

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will have no other way than resolutely carrying on their fight until genuine independence, freedom and peace are achieved."

Tho was accompanied, Randal reported, by Nguyen Co Tach, one of North Vietnam's three deputy foreign ministers.

U.S. sources said Tach is listed as a Hanoi specialist on America and Western Europe, indicating that North Vietnam wanted Tho to have reinforcement in judging American intentions, and scrutinizing proposed changes in the draft accord.

In any reopened diplomatic negotiations, each word change is bound to be examined with magnified intensity, along with the motives on each side. The Soviet ambassador to the United States, Anatoly F. Dobrynin, who is probably the most experienced observer of the United States from any Communist nation, was recalled to Moscow while Tho was there this week, although no official link has been acknowledged between the two visits.

Kissinger and President Nixon met for 50 minutes yesterday at the President's Camp David retreat in preparation for the Paris meeting with Tho.

The White House announced that Kissinger will be accompanied to Paris this time by his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who was in Saigon last week to discuss South Vietnam's misgivings about the proposed nine-point peace treaty.

A South Vietnamese government broadcast yesterday stated that in the next secret talks in Paris "one can now predict that there will be insurmountable obstacles to achieving a true cease-fire and lasting peace." U.S. officials, however, continue to discount such statements as public maneuvers by Saigon.

Others in Kissinger's party, as on his last trip to Paris on Oct. 17, the White House reported, will be William H. Sullivan, assistant secretary of state; Winston Lord, John D. Negroponte and Peter W. Rod-

man of Kissinger's staff, plus interpreter David A. Engel.

The group is scheduled to leave Andrews Air Force Base at 10 a.m. Sunday, arriving in Paris at 10:30 p.m. Ziegler said they will stay at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to France. The meetings with Tho, as usual, will be at a secret location.

Ziegler said the United States "will be consulting" with the government of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu as the private talks proceed, but the participants in the talks will be unchanged—meaning no representation from Saigon.

Gen. Tran Van Don, a member of the South Vietnamese legislature, arrived in Paris yesterday, saying he would observe "the decisive stage" of negotiations "in my personal capacity as a representative of the Vietnamese people."

The impending Kissinger-Tho meeting, Ziegler told reporters, "was agreed to in principle" before the Nov. 7 presidential election, and "the date was then worked out—it was the one proposed by Hanoi."

In the original draft agreement that North Vietnam made public on Oct. 26, in frustration over its inability to bring the accord into force on Oct. 31, a series of repeatedly postponed dates was projected for having Kissinger "initial" the final document, prior to its signing by foreign ministers.

When asked yesterday if Kissinger would initial the document at the end of the forthcoming round, Ziegler said, "I would not foresee Dr. Kissinger proceeding in that way during this period of negotiation."

On Oct. 26, in confirming Hanoi's summary of the proposed accord, Kissinger said it could be settled in one more negotiating sequence, of "no more than three or four days," and he added: "We have given a commitment that a text that will be agreed to at the next session will be the final text..."

Administration officials later said that the time frame mentioned by Kissinger was il-

lustrative, rather than exact; also, they have avoided public recommitment to a "final" text, on grounds that any draft is subject to scrutiny in Washington and consultation with South Vietnam.

South Vietnam is demanding, among other things, a binding, rather than a tacit, agreement by North Vietnam to withdraw its forces from the South, which Saigon puts at 300,000 but which the United States estimates at 125,000 to 145,000. The Saigon government also seeks recognition of a firm border between North and South Vietnam—which Hanoi adamantly rejects, plus elimination of any language in the draft that could create a "disguised coalition" political structure in South Vietnam.

Each of these demands, if pressed, could produce great difficulties in the negotiations.